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CONCL storage means on the basis of the phone number searched for by said searching means.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-17 are in this application, Claims 1, 4 and 6 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,622,592 (Ikehata et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 4,431,870 (May et al.) further in view of U.S. Patent 4,566,127 (Sekiya et al.). Claim 11 was rejected under Section 103 as unpatentable over Ikehata in view of May further in view of Sekiya as applied to Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-17, and further in view of the publication entitled "The Front, a Hand-Held Computer" (Inbound/Outbound, May 1990, page 12).

In response, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 4 and 6 are patentably distinct and allowable over the art applied against them, for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are directed to respective image processing apparatuses having, inter alia, reading means for reading image information including character data having a phone number recorded in a recording medium, recognizing means for recognizing the read character data, registering means for registering the recognized character data, and searching means for searching the registered character data for a desired phone number. Display means are provided for

displaying at least a plurality of phone numbers searched by the searching means, and selecting means are provided for selecting one of the plurality of the phone numbers. Control means are also provided for performing communication processing on the basis of the one phone number selected by the selecting means and storage means are provided for storing the document to be transmitted.

Accordingly, the present invention as set forth in the present Independent Claims 1, 4 and 6, is directed to an apparatus having both a data recognition function and a facsimile function. The data recorded in a document is read, and telephone numbers included in the read data are recognized and stored in memory. The telephone numbers are displayed, at which time a desired telephone number can be selected, for example, by activating the touch panel covering the CRT display (the exact means of selection is not specified in any of these claims). Facsimile communication is executed on the basis of the selected telephone number.

Even if Ikehata be deemed to teach a technique of recognizing numbers in a document and then executing facsimile communication, that patent is not seen to disclose the recited feature of storing telephone numbers recognized in a document and then executing facsimile communication on the basis of one of the stored telephone numbers.

Also, even if May and Sekiya are assumed arguendo to teach all that they are cited for in the Office Action,

that does not apply what is missing from Ikehata as a reference against Claims 1, 4 and 6.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of Ikehata, May and Sekiya as references against independent Claims 1, 4 and 6. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The dependent claims are also believed patentable since they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, Applicants request that the patentability of each dependent claim be reconsidered on its own merits.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone in our New York office at

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Respectfully submitted,


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